

In the Specification

Please substitute the following clean copy paragraph/page text for the pending paragraph/page text of the same number.

Page 10, line 16 - page 11, line 9:

Q4 Since the tubular support 120 is connected with the bird carrier 104, lifting the wheel axle 116 over a scale track will cause the weight of the bird carcass, tubular support, and bird carrier to be entirely supported by the axle. Thus, a carcass can be accurately weighed by simply rolling the wheels 112 and 114 over the scale track 102 in either the forward or reverse directions. The arrangement of the openings 124 and 126 also prevents the wheel axle 116 and tubular support 120 from rotating around the longitudinal axis of the rod 122 and keeps the wheels 112 and 114 properly oriented. The tubular support 120 and rod 122 are therefore maintained in a substantially non-rotating relationship that reduces the likelihood of inaccurate measurements caused by an unstable hanger and/or carcass. Furthermore, if the wheel axle 116 is improperly aligned parallel to the weighing scale track, then the wheels 112 and 114 are likely to pass harmlessly between the two tracks without damaging the scale. Moreover, only the tubular support 120 and bird carrier 104 are lifted with the bird, instead of the entire hanger assembly 100. Consequently, less weight compensation is required in order to arrive at the accurate weight measurement for just the carcass.

Page 12, lines 3-16:

Q5 A second embodiment of a shackle assembly is shown in Figs. 10-13. In this second embodiment 200, the support rod 222 is formed in two detached portions 222A and 222B. The upper portion 222A of the rod 222 forms the trolley support 206 while the lower portion 222B of the rod 222 is formed in one piece with the stirrups 205 in order to create the bird carrier 204. In this embodiment, the telescopic connector means 218 for connecting the trolley support 206 to the bird carrier 204 includes the tubular support 220 being secured to the upper rod portion 222A. The lower portion 222B of the rod 222 in bird carrier 204 then slides into the central passage 236 (Figs. 11 and 13) defined by the tubular support 220. Since the tubular support 220 is now fixed to the trolley support 206, rather than the bird carrier 204, the breadth of the tube opening 224 is now made larger than the breadth of the rod opening 236 in order to provide

Q5 telescopic movement between the trolley support and the bird carrier. In particular, the tube opening 224 is a slot having a width generally corresponding to the diameter of the wheel axle 216 and a length chosen for an appropriate range of vertical movement.

Page 13, line 19-page 14, line 6:

Q6 The embodiments discussed above provide an improved shackle design for which latching and unlatching mechanisms are not required during weighing. The shackle can go over the scale facing either forward or backward and thus requires less turning in order to position the shackle for weighing. Since the shackle assemblies 100 and 200 are more stable as they go over the scale, and since only a portion of shackle assembly is supported by the scale, more accurate weight measurements can be obtained at high conveyor speeds. In addition, the bird carriers 104 (and 204) will not separate from their respective trolley supports 106 (and 206) during normal use and cleaning without first removing the wheel axles 116 (or 216) from the openings 124 and 126 (or 224 and 225).

In the Drawings

Please substitute the enclosed drawings for FIGS. 10-13.

Declaration

A newly signed declaration has been submitted as requested.